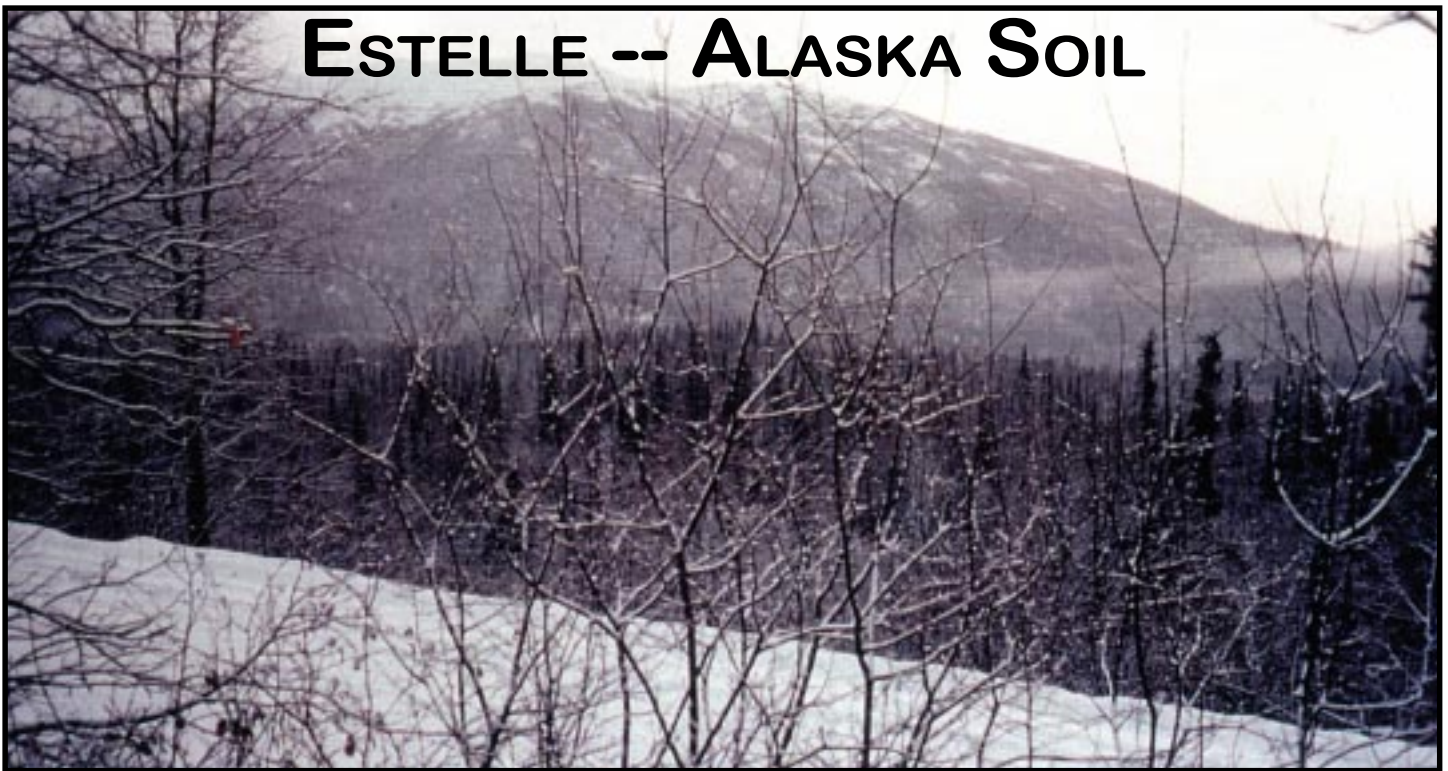


ESTELLE -- ALASKA SOIL



Estelle Soil Profile

Surface layer: dark brown organic material

Subsurface layer: dark gray silt loam

Subsoil - upper: yellowish red silt loam

Subsoil - lower: strong brown silt loam

Substratum: grayish brown very gravelly loam

The Estelle series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in a mantle of ash-influenced loess 14 to 24 inches thick over friable or firm gravelly glacial till. These soils are on glacial till plains and hillslopes. They support a forest of mixed birch and spruce.

The Estelle series was established in the Matanuska Valley area of Alaska in 1996. It was named after a woman pioneer who settled in the area in the late 1800's. Estelle soils are extensive throughout the south-central lowlands of Alaska, where more than half of Alaska's 600,000 people live. The mean annual precipitation is about 18 inches, and the mean annual temperature is about 35 degrees F.

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